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Phone / Fax (09) 433 5823 **Email** – admin@matarau.school.nz

Thanks

- .. To those parents who supported the senior beach volley ball day
- .. To those parents who have been helping out at home with Home Gardens and art portfolios (portfolios are due Monday 28.11).
- .. To those who have participated in our parent and child surveys.
- .. To those parents who helping out with purchase of Year 8 leaving books.

People of the week

.. Ayla and Zanthia for stunning achievements at the recent group Calf Club Days, Zanthia and her calf got 2nd Best Junior Pet Calf, 3rd in Leading, and 4th Best Beef Calf; Ayla and her calf got several trophies, including 1st Open Leading, 1st Best Cross Breed, 1st for Rearing! Awesome work girls!!

.. This week's "Sausage Team", Mrs Sinclair says awesome job filling in while the Seniors were away!

.. All of those children who participated in this week's Spelling Bee heats and to our finalists Tyla, Lachlan, Dylan, Jacob, Tegan, Kayla, Shawn and James.

The finals will (all going well) be held at our assembly next week - Monday 2:30 PM.



School Trophies and Cups

Still a few cups outstanding, please return these on Monday. Please do not polish - we will arrange. Thanks!

Surveys

If you have not already done so please take the time to complete the parent survey below and to arrange for your child to complete the Being Valued survey. To this point we have had only 10% response to both surveys and this is not sufficient for us to have confidence in our findings. This information will be used to improve our school and so your input is very important. These surveys can actually be completed in less than 10 minutes.

Satisfaction Survey

You will recall from an earlier newsletter our intention to invite feedback from parents on various areas of school operation. Over a period, parents will be invited to comment with respect to three areas .. **school climate** .. **communication** .. and **quality of instruction**. Our first survey is in the area of school climate and this is up and ready to go. To submit your responses (10 simple multi choice questions) please go to the link below. The more responses we have the more useful will be this feedback .. takes less than 10 minutes (maybe even 5). Alternatively, feel free to give Kevin a call to work through your responses over the phone.

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TFQ8D8C>

Being Valued (survey for children years 3 to 8)

You will also be aware that our overarching virtues focus this year has been around valuing self and others. We are keen to collect information which will help us to monitor the emotional 'wellness' of our students. Please find the link below and ask your child to work through the questions (they will discuss these with teachers next week so they know what to expect). **It is REALLY important that you do NOT lead them in responding to any questions .. the responses must be entirely theirs to be of any real value.** Many thanks.
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/G5FCSZ9>

Please note that you will only be able to respond once from any given computer - please contact the school office for additional hard copies if required. BOTH SURVEYS WILL REMAIN OPEN UNTIL 2 DECEMBER.

Parent Helpers Morning Tea

Parents / caregivers who have helped at school in any way this year are invited to a morning tea to be held in the school hall on Thursday 8 December starting 10:30am.

This is our chance to thank you for the difference you have made to our school. To help with catering please give Helen a call next week if you think you might be in attendance.

Interschool Athletics

.. will be held Tuesday 29 November at Kensington Park (pp 1/12). A reminder that children will travel by car (thanks to those helping out with this) and will need to wear Matarau T-shirts and bring lunch, drinks, sunhats, sunblock and something warm to wear just in case. Please contact Mr D on Monday with any questions. Children can pick up a T-shirt and jacket from the school office on Monday.

Coming up

.. Friday 2 December .. Year 8 orientation day at Kamo High School. Questions please to Mr D.

Respect Virtue

Would love to hear of some special successes so we can put these in next week's newsletter.

Year 3 Camp - Kayaks

We are planning on kayaking at the Year 3 camp on the 15th-16th December. At this stage we have the loan of 11 kayaks but require at least 3 more. Thank you to those families who have already offered. Sue Abbott will be able to transport the kayaks to and from the venue.

We are also in need of some small children's lifejackets. Please contact the office if you are able to assist.

Sun Safe Clothing

The Cancer Society recommends that sun safe clothing is worn in the summer months. While we do have a regulation sunhat, other items of clothing are generally left to the discretion of children and their parents. Having said this, we would like to encourage sun safe clothing where possible which includes shoulders and mid riffs covered. This is especially important given that lunch time for many children means an hour or so in the hot Northland Sun. Thank you for your co-operation with this.

Home Garden Update

Meetings this week went well with plenty of sharing of tips and lots of support with garden problems. A reminder that

.. *Consent to Visit forms are required at school on Monday. Gardens will not be visited where the consent form has not been returned (please contact the office on Monday if you have not received a form).*

.. *Home Garden Diaries were due at school today on Friday 25 November, - Monday morning extension at latest!*

.. *Gardens will be judged on Saturday 3 December*

Leaving Books

You may be aware that it is a Matarau tradition for the Board of Trustees to present all Year 8 students with a leaving book. Last week our Year 8 students received a book voucher to put towards a book of their choice. Thank you in anticipation parents for assisting in their purchase of a suitable book. The vouchers are redeemable at most book stores. Books are to be returned to school to be officially presented at prize giving on 13 December.

Drink Bottles

Please ensure your child brings a drink bottle to school each day to place on their desk. Water is best.

School Contributions

Those who opted for term payment of school contributions and activity fees will have received a request for their final instalment two or three weeks back. Please forward payment as soon as possible and don't hesitate to contact us with any questions or to discuss alternative payment arrangements. A small number of families also owe for activity or technology fees from earlier in the year and we are keen to receive these as soon as possible please. We are happy to have automatic deductions into our account where this works best for parents.

Art Scholarships

Portfolios are due on Monday 28 November by 3:30pm. Please note that entry criteria have been amended this year to allow 2 items from a previous year and one from an out of school activity (with some conditions). We hope to see a high level of interest in these scholarships with potential to win a trophy at prizegiving and \$125 for each of the two winning students (Y4-6 and Y7-8).



International Student Homestays

Thanks again to those who have contacted us to discuss homestay possibilities. You can expect to hear from us in the next week or two.

Garden Club Co-ordinator

If you, or anyone you know, would be interested in helping out next year please contact the school office. This may suit a grandparent, neighbour who has an interest in gardening. Only couple hours needed each week to co-ordinate the children and plants!

Scholastic Book Orders

Issue 8 closes next Friday 2nd December, please bring orders to the office before then.

Fundraising Chocolate

Still money & chocolates outstanding from a few families, please if you have not returned your chocolates or money yet, please do so on Monday as the fundraiser is now being finalised. Thank you to all parents & families who have sold chocolates and returned to school.

Community Notices

Firewood for Sale – Split gum, \$65/sqm; Mixed bag, \$55/sqm. Tel Justin 433 5083

For Sale - 1999 Honda Foreman – Good Condition – Ideal for Beach – Ph Edwin 0274 770 191

Reliable Baby-Sitter Available - Previous pupil Holly Duckmanton (refer Mr T or Mr D if details required) is available to babysit in the Matarau/Ruatangata/Kamo area. Year 12 student with own transport and experience, very reliable. Rate \$15/hour first 3 hours, then \$10 per hour. Contact details phone home 09 4335 735.

Daylong SPF30+ Sunscreen (water resistant for 80 minutes), 8 hours sun-protection from a single application. It really does work! Perfect for School (and work and summer holidays!) Available at Unichem Kamo Dispensary (Bush Rd) & Unichem Kamo. 15% discount to Matarau School families. Just ask in-store. Offer Valid until Feb 20

Kidz Camp - Marsden Bay Holiday Camp, Jan 9th-14th, wide variety of activities. Ph Helena 094447456/0273806323 or info@marsdenbay.com

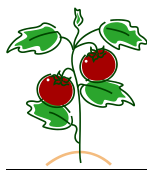
Summer Camps – Outdoor activities. For more information visit www.scriptureunion.org.nz or ph 0800 7822677.

Paihia Oceans Kids Swim - Saturday 10 December, 10.30am, Paihia Beach. To register or for more info visit www.oceankids.co.nz.

For Rent – 2 bedroom house on one acre, Ruatangata area. On bus route to Matarau School & High Schools. Available January 2012, \$260pw. Phone Kat 433 5149.

Whangarei A & P Ag Day

Entries are open for the A&P Summer Show on Saturday 3rd December 2011. All pet calf, lamb or goat entries received before 14 November receive a free ticket to the Show! Gate admission for the Show is \$5.00 per person, with under 5 year olds free. Visit www.summershow.co.nz for more information.



Organic Vegetable Plants

If running late with plantings (or if wanting certified organic seedlings for your garden), locally grown in Ruatangata to biogro standards. Phone Rebecca Agnew on 4351030. Rebecca will be selling seedlings each Friday afternoon near the top carpark during November 3:00 - 3:20 PM.

Final Thought

"Our great business in life is not to see what lies dimly at a distance, but to do what lies clearly at hand."

Thomas Carlyle, 1795-1881 Scottish essayist and philosopher

Regards

Kevin Trehwella
PRINCIPAL

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Not too late - New & Returning Members welcome

Stroke improvement classes - Monday & Friday afternoons from 4.30pm.

Club nights – Wednesdays, start 30th November 2011 at 6.00pm, great atmosphere, timed races.

Swimmers must be reasonably confident in water and be able to swim 10-15m unaided.